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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9365
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1710
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 4083
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1702
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1764
RUCNSE/US SECRET SERVICE WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 001063

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STATE FOR EUR/UBI (RREITER)
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2017
TAGS: [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [KS](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KH](#) [NL](#)
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL SALE OF DRENT GOEBEL PRESS TO THE DPRK:
DUTCH REACTION

REF: STATE 71889

Classified By: Economic Section Chief Karen Enstrom
Reasons 1.4 (b and d)

¶1. (U) Econoff and Secret Service Agent John McDonough delivered reftel points June 1 to Erik Ligthart, Deputy Director of the Financial Integrity Unit, Dutch Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Economic Affairs (MEA) officials George Bontenbal, Export Control and Strategic Goods, and Kees Jan Steenhoek, Senior Policy Advisor, Trade Policy Department.

¶2. (C) All three officials said they had not heard of the Drent Goebel case and that they would investigate further. Any Dutch reaction, Ligthart said, would have to consider the May 21 Swiss Federal Police report that questioned whether North Korea could produce Supernotes. Ligthart doubted whether it was possible to deny North Korea its sovereign right to print currency and whether the technology in the printing press was subject to controls -- in which case, the decision to discourage the export would have to be political.

¶3. (C) Bontenbal confirmed Ligthart's concerns and said absent any "strategic" technology in the presses, there would be no straightforward legal means to restrict the export. He explained that a Dutch connection must exist, such as the use of Drent Goebel presses in the Netherlands, before the GONL could take action. He agreed to verify whether Drent Goebel's Netherlands headquarters was more than just a "financial or tax construction," in which case the GONL could talk to management. He added that the MEA would investigate through their export control enforcement channels and follow up with Post regarding any substantive information found or actions taken.

GALLAGHER